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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 02630 132200Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1474
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS PANAMA 2630

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PN, LY
SUBJECT: TORRIJOS IN LIBYA: ARRIVAL COMMENTS

1. PRESS COVERAGE OF TORRIJOS' ARRIVAL IN TRIPOLI YESTERDAY FOCUSES ON TWO ITEMS: QADHAFI'S RINGING SUPPORT FOR PANAMA, AND TORRIJOS' COMPARISON OF THE TWO COUNTRIES PROBLEMS AS SIMILAR. "PANAMA'S FATE," QADHAFI DECLARED, "IS LIBYA'S -- IN TRIUMPH OR DEFEAT. LIBYA STANDS WITH PEACE AS IN WAR." TORRIJOS THANKED QADHAFI FOR HIS SUPPORT BUT DID NOT RECIPROCATE HIS WORDS. DURING HIS BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE TORRIJOS NOTED THAT THERE WAS A GREAT SIMILARITY "BETWEEN THE PROBLEMS THAT PANAMA IS FACING AND THAT LIBYA HAS SOLVED." ACCORDING TO NEWS-MAN DANILO CABALLERO'S REPORT, HOWEVER, TORRIJOS SAID THAT DESPITE THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTANCE BETWEEN PANAMA AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES, SHE IS "VERY NEAR TO THEIR POLITICAL LINE."

2. ON THE CANAL QUESTION, TORRIJOS SAID, PANAMA HAS CHOSEN THE PATH OF NEGOTIATION BUT HAS NOT DISCARDED OTHERS. HE REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE OF 1977 AS "A DECISIVE YEAR IN WHICH THERE MUST BE AN ANSWER TO OUR DEMANDS."

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PAGE 02 PANAMA 02630 132200Z

3. CARLOS PEREZ HERRERA, TORRIJOS' ADVANCE MAN IN LIBYA, IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT PANANA CAN EXPECT TO EXPORT MORE BANAMAS TO LIBYA AS WELL AS TO RECEIVE DIRECT IMPORTS OF CRUDE PETROLEUM FROM THAT COUNTRY.
JORDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Subject: TORRIJOS IN LIBYA: ARRIVAL COMMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PN, LY, (TORRIJOS HERRERA, OMAR)
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Type: TE
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